

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): A low sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column comprising

a female member adapted for slidingly receiving a male member therein and at least one metal strip fitted therebetween having an uneven contact surface, characterized in that said metal ~~strips are~~ strip is fitted between the male member and the female member and inside ~~recesses at~~ least one recess in a fastening cage ~~which, in turn, is arranged~~ clamped to the external surface of said male member.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**): A low sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said cage is clamped to the outside of the male member by ~~means of~~ deformations on the lateral surface thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A low sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said cage is injected directly on the male member.

Claim 4 (**new**): A low sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a plurality of metal strips fitted inside respective recesses of said cage.

Claim 5 (**new**): A low sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column comprising:

a female member adapted for slidingly receiving a male member therein;

at least one metal strip having an uneven contact surface, a fastening cage fitted between the male member and the female member, said fastening cage having at least one recess, and said fastening cage surrounding said male member; and

at least one metal strip received in said at least one recess.

Claim 6 (**new**): A low sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a plurality of metal strips fitted inside respective recesses of said cage.